

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

OCTOBER 11, 1910

The first fall meeting of the Club was held at the Museum of Natural History. Vice-president Barnhart occupied the chair. Eight persons were present. Mrs. M. E. Soth, of Manitou, Colorado, was elected to membership.

The scientific program consisted of an illustrated lecture on "European Influences in the History of American Botany" by Dr. John Hendley Barnhart.

JEAN BROADHURST,
Secretary pro tem.

OCTOBER 26, 1910

The meeting of October 26 was held in the museum building of the New York Botanical Garden at 3:30 P.M. Eleven persons were present. Vice-president Barnhart occupied the chair.

The minutes of the meeting of October 11 were read and approved. It was then voted to accept the resignation of Frederick S. Beattie, of Tilton, N. H.

The scientific program consisted of informal reports on the summer's work. Mr. Norman Taylor, chairman of the field committee, gave an account of the Decoration Day excursion by members of the Club to Saugerties, Ulster Co., N. Y., of a personal collecting expedition to Bean Run, Luzerne Co., Pa., and of the "Symposium" in cooperation with the Philadelphia Botanical Club, which was held this year at Farmingdale, Monmouth County, New Jersey, July 2 to July 9. Farmingdale is north of the pine-barren region and its soils are largely Cretaceous marls and clays, but it was of interest to find in this region, especially on the low hills, northward extensions of the range of certain characteristic pine-barren plants.

Mrs. N. L. Britton gave a report of the summer meeting of the Vermont Botanical Club, which was held at Woodstock, Vermont, during the first week of July.

Mr. F. J. Seaver remarked briefly concerning his visit to the mountains of Colorado, where he made collections of fungi during the month of September.

Dr. John Hendley Barnhart reported upon his visit to Europe during May, June, and July, including an account of the International Botanical Congress at Brussels, to which he was one of the Club's delegates. He also related some of his experiences and results in purchasing books for the library of the New York Botanical Garden and in a few hours of plant-collecting in the vicinity of Oberammergau.

Dr. P. A. Rydberg stated that for the first season in twenty-six years he had not collected a single plant, and in this connection he briefly reviewed some of his earlier field-work.

Adjournment followed.

MARSHALL A. HOWE,
Secretary pro tem.

OF INTEREST TO TEACHERS

KIPLING ON THE OLD HERBALISTS

In Kipling's *Rewards and Fairies** is a musical poem, "Our Fathers of Old", which shows that Kipling must be familiar with some of the old herbals. The first stanza follows:

"Excellent herbs had our fathers of old—
 Excellent herbs to ease their pain—
 Alexanders and Marigold,
 Eyebright, Orris, and Elecampane.
 Basil, Rocket, Valerian, Rue,
 (Almost singing themselves they run)
 Vervain, Dittany, Call-me-to-you—
 Cowslip, Meliot, Rose of the Sun.
 Anything green that grew out of the mould
 Was an excellent herb to our fathers of old."

As in Adam in Eden, "simply and gravely the facts are told"; yet after all,

"Wonderful little, when all is said,
 Wonderful little our fathers knew.
 Half their remedies cured you dead—
 Most of their teaching was quite untrue."

*Doubleday, Page and Co., Garden City, New York, 1910.